

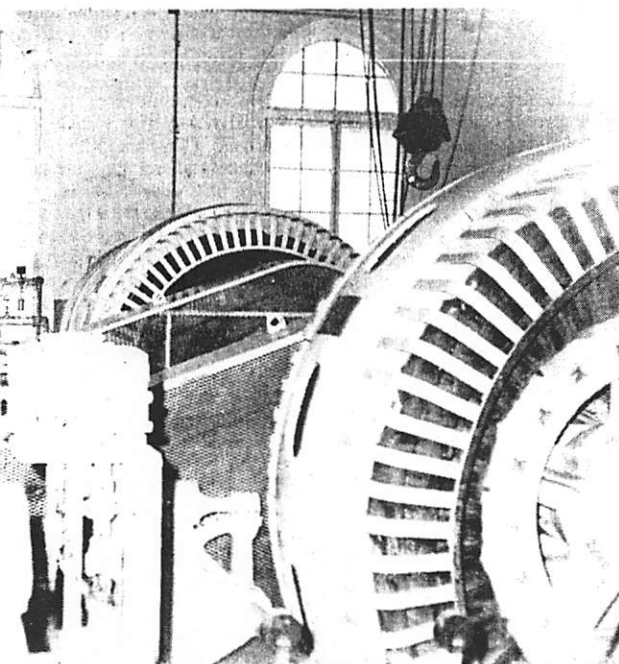
# Snake Creek Power Plant Listed on Register of Historical Places



The Utah Power and Light Company Snake Creek hydroelectric plant in Wasatch County, has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

9-20-89  
The Snake Creek Power Plant is one of 12 Utah Power and Light Company hydroelectric plants recently included in the National Register of Historic Places. Gov.

Norman H. Bangerter honored the company recently in a ceremony to mark the company's efforts to preserve these significant parts of Utah's heritage.



The old generators in the Snake Creek Power Plant still provide electricity for Utah Power and Light Company customers.

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1907-08 killed local participation in the venture, however. That left Knight open to take control, which he did.

In 1909, he incorporated the Snake Creek Power Company, with himself as president and Murdock as vice president. The company acquired the plant site from Bishop Jacob Probst and built a two-unit generating station. Construction was complete in 1910.

Virtually all of the power went to the Park City mines. By that time, however, Heber City had built its own power plant and no longer needed the Snake Creek electricity.

Jesse Knight, meanwhile, was showing the entrepreneurial genius that had made him rich. No longer interested in electricity only for his own use, he incorporated the Knight Consolidated Power Co. in 1910. Through a series of plant construction and mergers, Knight Consolidated came to control eight power stations in Wasatch, Utah, and Salt Lake Counties. The company's distribution network supported industrial development far beyond the original mining operations.

In the course of its expansion, Knight Consolidated inevitably bumped into the equally aggressive Telluride Power Co., which was based in Provo and headed by the electrical pioneer L. L. Nunn. The competition was bitter but short-lived. In 1913, both companies were combined into Utah Power and Light Company, which became and remained the state's largest electric company as a result of the merger.

The plants, still in operation, stand as examples of the evolution of the electric power industry. They demonstrate the close link between electricity and economic development which continues to this day.

Industrial interests, particularly mining and smelting, had a profound influence on the development of hydroelectric power in Utah. A prime example is the Snake Creek Plant, located in Snake Creek Canyon west of Heber City in the Wasatch State Park.

The plant was built by Snake Creek Power Company to supply power to silver mining operations in Park City. Snake Creek Power was a part of Consolidated Power Company. The mining property, the power plant, and the electrical conglomerate, were controlled by one man: the formidable entrepreneur Jesse Knight.

But Knight was not the first to recognize the potential of a power plant at Snake Creek. That honor goes to the residents of Heber City, who got the idea in 1907. Joseph R. Murdock acquired the water rights that year to supply power to Heber.

Being halfway between Heber and Park City, the project attracted Knight's attention. He kicked in a little financial support, reasoning that the power would come in handy at his mines. The Panic of